

MARINE INFORMATION**NAVIGATION SAFETY SYSTEM (NSS)
PREMIER EDITION-U.S. NOTICE TO MARINERS**

The Navigation Safety System (NSS) has replaced the Automated Notice to Mariners System (ANMS) and is now fully operational and supporting all maritime safety information database maintenance and navigation publication product generation within the Marine Navigation Department of NIMA. Notice to Mariners 29/99 is the first of NIMA's suite of navigation publications which has been totally compiled, composed and published with data and information processed on NSS.

The NSS has been under development for the past three years, with Raytheon Systems Company (RSC) of Garland, TX serving as the prime contractor assisted by Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) of Redlands, CA and Planning Systems Incorporated (PSI) of Slidell, LA serving as subcontractors. The Marine Navigation Department would like to thank these companies and especially the personnel that were assigned to the NSS program for their outstanding support, dedication and teamwork. The NSS development team has successfully delivered an authoritative nautical database maintenance environment to NIMA and the Marine Navigation Department that will provide the production capability to satisfy NIMA's statutory responsibility (U.S. Code Titles 10 and 44) to provide maritime safety information, products and services into the next millennium and beyond.

With the implementation of NSS, improvements have been made to our databases, products and services to better support our maritime customers. Within the Notice to Mariners publication itself, the Chart Corrections format has been modified to now repeat the text of multiple corrections to the same feature type and also include the U.S. Chart No. 1 symbol reference to "Add" and "Substitute" corrections in an attempt to make the corrections easier to apply. The Source of Information element has also been moved to the bottom of the correction to separate this authority information from the pertinent product information that the customer is more concerned with. See page iv "Explanation of Contents" of this or any future Notice to Mariners for further explanation on the elements that comprise a typical chart correction and/or the contents of the Notice to Mariners publication. In addition, commencing with this Notice, the Notice to Mariners will now be available in its entirety as Portable Document format (PDF) files on the NSS Marine Navigation Department website and NAVINFONET Service.

Any questions, comments, or suggestions concerning the Notice to Mariners or any of NIMA's navigation publications may be directed to the Marine Navigation Department phone numbers listed on page ii or by using the enclosed postage paid Marine Information Report and Suggestion Sheet. The Marine Navigation Department continually strives to improve and integrate all of our nautical information, data, products and services to guarantee the information edge and better serve our customers.